

Mr. Read, Mr. Hayward, and Mr. Thompson, be the committee to take into consideration the subject of this resolution, and report thereon by bill or otherwise.

On like motion of Mr. Partelow, Resolved, That the subject matter of the fourth resolution, now reported from the committee of the whole house when in consideration of His Excellency's speech, and which relates to the advance from the public funds towards the sufferers in Newfoundland, to be referred to the committee of supply.

ABOLITION OF STATE OATHS.

February 3.

Downing Street, 2d June, 1846.

Sir,—I have received and laid before the Queen, the address enclosed in your despatch No. 22, of the 8th April, from the House of Assembly of New Brunswick, praying for the abolition of the usual State oaths, and the substitution for them of the Oath of Allegiance.

Her Majesty is graciously pleased to accede to this request. In order to give effect to the views of the provincial Legislature, it will be necessary to amend, by new letters patent under the Great Seal, the existing commission of the government of New Brunswick, and this amendment will be made as speedily as may be found practicable.

I have, &c.
W. E. GLADSTONE.
Lt. Governor Sir W. Colebrook.

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

Sir,—I have received, and submitted to the Queen, your confidential despatch, of the 20th of last April, in which you enclose the copy of a Joint Address presented to you by the Legislative Council and House of Assembly of New Brunswick, referring to a resolution to the Lower House, to grant the sum of £10,000 to the Provincial Government, to meet any emergency which might arise in the present state of the foreign relations of this Kingdom.

Her Majesty has commanded me to express to you, and through you, to the two branches of the Legislature of New Brunswick, the gratification which she has experienced in receiving the intelligence of the liberality displayed by the Representatives of the inhabitants of that province. The Queen appreciates most highly this mark of approval by her subjects in New Brunswick, of the policy pursued by the ministers in the relations of this Kingdom with foreign countries, and relies with confidence on their attachment and well known loyalty towards Her Majesty's person and government, on any occasion which it may be necessary to call forth their energies in the defence of their Country.

I have to add the expression of my own satisfaction at learning that you consider the militia law, in its present state, adequate to the defence of the province.

I have, &c.
W. E. GLADSTONE.
Lt. Governor Sir W. Colebrook.

ELECTRO-MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.

Sir,—On the recommendation of the Executive Council of this province, I have the honor to inclose a copy of a letter from the Board of Trade of Montreal, urging the co-operation of the respective Governments of the British North American Provinces, for the establishment of an electric telegraph from Halifax to Toronto, on which subject the projectors of the measure here, are desirous of eliciting information, as to the extent of support which would be likely to be offered by each province, and with this view I would invite your Excellency to communicate to me the views entertained by yourself and your Executive Council on the subject.

I have, &c.
W. E. GLADSTONE.
His Excellency Sir W. Colebrook.

Mr. Wark presented a petition from the Justices of the Peace for the county of Kent, praying to be reimbursed expenses incurred for the support of the Emigrants arrived during the past year; and also for the relief of shipwrecked emigrants brought into the port of Richibucto in a destitute condition; which he read. Laid on the Table.

February 4.

Mr. End moved for leave to bring in a Bill to alter part of the Line of Great Road from Bathurst, in the County of Gloucester, to the Southern termination of the Great Bathurst Road, via Pokemouche. Leave granted.

On motion of Mr. Partelow, Resolved, That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to inform this House whether he has received from Her Majesty's Government a copy of the recent Act of the Imperial Parliament, authorizing the repeal, by Act of Assembly, subject to certain conditions, of any Imperial Act or Acts now in force imposing Differential Duties on Foreign Goods and Merchandise imported into this Province; and also whether His Excellency has received any Despatch or Despatches from Her Majesty's Government on this subject; and if so, that His Excellency will be pleased to lay before the House a copy of the said Act, together with the said Despatch or Despatches, or such parts thereof as His Excellency may be pleased to communicate.

February 5.

Mr. Wilson, by leave, presented a Petition from David Le Boutillier, carrying on a Fishing Establishment at Miscou, in the Parish of Carquest, in the County of Gloucester, praying that a grant may pass in lieu of Fish Bounty earned by him in the years 1844 and 1845, and not received; which he read. Ordered, That the said Petition be received and referred to the Committee appointed on the twenty eighth day of January last, to take

into consideration all matters connected with the Fisheries, to report thereon.

February 8.

Read a third time as engrossed, a Bill to authorize the Justices of the Peace for the County of Kent to assess the inhabitants of the said County for the Contingent Expenses thereof. Passed. Read a third time as engrossed, a Bill to authorize Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace of the County of Gloucester to make provision for the payment of the County Contingencies. Passed.

February 9.

Mr. End, by leave, presented a Petition from the Reverend Francis Xavier La France, Roman Catholic Missionary, at Tracad, in the County of Gloucester, praying aid towards liquidating part of a debt contracted in the erection of a Public School House at that place; which he read. Ordered, That the said Petition be received, and referred to the Committee on Education.

Mr. Steves, by leave, presented a Petition from John Lewis, Henry Steves, and three hundred others, inhabitants of the County of Albert, praying that an Act may pass allowing a Bounty upon Grain raised on New Land; which he read. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture.

Mr. Hannington, presented a Petition from Henry Livingston, Edward S. Smith, and thirty others, inhabitants of Shediac, in the County of Westmorland, praying that a Grant may pass to Andrew Simpson to aid him in running a Weekly Stage between Dorchester and that place; which he read. Laid on the Table.

Mr. End moved for leave to bring in a Bill to re-establish the Easter Term of Her Majesty's Supreme Court of Judicature in this Province. Leave granted.

To His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor the following sums—£12,000 towards the encouragement of Parish Schools, agreeably to a Law of this Province; £22 10s. for a Tide Surveyor at Shippegas or Caraquet, in the County of Gloucester, for the year 1847. £22 10s. for a Tide Surveyor at Bathurst, in the County of Gloucester, for the year 1847. £30 to provide for the services of a Tide Waiter at Dalhousie, for the year 1847.

CROWN LANDS.

Agreeably to promise, we publish below the Debate which took place in the Assembly on the Resolution introduced by the Surveyor General, relating to the disposal of Crown Lands.

Mr. BARBARIE was pointing out the evils and inconveniences which attend the present imperfect and unsatisfactory system of conducting surveys which had already led to much difficulty in the section of the Province which he represented, and contending for the necessity of raising a Committee to investigate and report thereon.

Mr. RICHIE urged the importance of the subject on the consideration of the House, not only as regard the facility which a well devised and uniform system of survey would afford to the settlement of the Wilderness Lands in the Province, but for the proper expenditure of the large sums of money annually expended on roads, which for want of a proper survey, were frequently improperly located. Besides this, the surveys in many parts of the Province had been so carelessly executed, the variations so erroneously calculated, and the instruments used so imperfect, that these surveys had already led to almost endless disputes among the settlers in different parts of the country. His (Mr. Ritchie's) professional experience had taught him, that there was no one subject so prolific of causes of litigation as that of surveys of land. In the county of King's this had been particularly the case, and so long as the present system continued, he was persuaded that such difficulties would continue to increase. With regard to roads, it sometimes happened that they were carried directly through a clearance which some poor man had made in the wilderness, subjecting him to a heavy additional expense in fences, besides taking from him a large portion of his improvements, for which he received little or nothing as damages. The real source of permanent wealth in this Province must be in the labor of those who cultivated its soil. Its lumber would soon be exhausted; its mineral wealth, whatever it might be, they were yet far too poor to avail themselves of; but the land, if properly managed, would by the labour of the settler, soon be productive of benefit to the Province. He, for one, would rather give away land than see the Province remain in its present state. Were the country properly laid out in blocks, subdivided into 100 or 200 acre lots, it would be a vast improvement, and some such plan as this might be adopted. He would give away say 30 acres, on condition that the settler should clear a certain number of acres within five years, erect buildings thereon, and become a bona fide settler. He would also reserve for him the right to purchase the remainder of the lot on which he had located at a fixed price, but no grant of any portion of the land should issue until the settler had fulfilled his engagements with the Government. By adopting this mode, he thought the Province would, in the end, be much more benefited than by the present system of disposing of Crown Lands, those who usually emigrated to this Province were principally Irish, with but little means, but they were hardy and industrious, and could live on a piece of land where a native of this Province would starve. These were the persons who, if sufficient encouragement were given, would reclaim the Forest. Teach them that if they choose to settle in this country and cultivate its soil, that the

government would guarantee them the possession on their first improvements, and if they wished, and were able to enlarge their freehold, and they could do so at a moderate price. With these views he would cordially support the resolution.

Mr. FISHER was afraid that the appointment of a select committee would do but little good—already large sums of money had been expended in surveying lands without any corresponding benefit; if the matter was to be taken up at all he was of opinion that it should be taken up by the Government.

The SURVEYOR GENERAL then rose and said, that in bringing forward the Resolution he had been actuated only by a sense of duty, from the performance of which he was not disposed to shrink. If ever the country was to thrive and become truly prosperous it must be from agriculture. To reclaim the soil and encourage settlers to people the wilderness lands, was in his opinion, the first and most important duty of those who represented the people, and to do this effectually and speedily it was absolutely necessary that the land should be surveyed, and surveyed too on a systematic and uniform principle, which would enable him at any time to say to the applicant for a grant "this is your property and these are your boundaries." This, under the present surveying laws, could not be done, no human wisdom was equal to such a task, nor no human being could take the surveys, as they are now conducted, and compile them, and say with any degree of certainty, that the Map was a correct one, the thing was utterly impossible, and it was to obviate the ruinous defect that he had wished a Committee to be raised. He again repeated it, that if people of this country did not besir themselves—if they did not turn their attention with vigor to agriculture, and to domestic manufactures, from what source he would ask, could they hope to pay the merchant for the goods which he imported? The timber trade before many years must fail, and the people would have the soil alone to depend upon for the means of subsistence. If agriculture be not fostered and encouraged—if the wilderness be not reclaimed and domestic manufactures introduced and encouraged before the timber trade is destroyed, the people of this country would most assuredly find themselves in a lamentable position. He would now say a few words in reply to what had fallen from the hon. member from Saint John, and his hon. and learned colleague on his right, (Mr. Fisher.) These honorable gentlemen had both alluded to the large expenditures of money for the survey of public lands, but not one word had they said of the benefits which the Province derived from those surveys. This reminded him of an anecdote of a General who had gained possession of a fort by means of a traitor who had betrayed the garrison. When the traitor was presented to him, he drew a pistol and presented it at his breast, exclaiming, "I love the treason but I hate the traitor." Just so with his honorable friends, they love the money but they hate the person who procured it for them. He wished his hon. friend or some other hon. member would move an address to His Excellency, praying for a return of all the monies paid into the Treasury since 1832, on account of the Crown Lands, and then his honorable friends would be able to judge how far the vast sums of money expended on surveys had benefited the Province, or at least, procured for the Province money which his honorable friends had assisted in appropriating. We hear a great deal of a 20,000 paid for surveys, but there is precious little said about the thousands which those surveys had been the means of bringing into the public chest. This he considered hardly fair, and if no hon. member choose to move for the returns which he had mentioned, he, at an early day would do so himself, that this subject might be fairly and fully brought before the public. The plan on which he would propose to conduct future surveys, would cost less than the present plan, for when a poor man applied for a piece of land, the average cost of surveying is 6d. to 8. and 9d. per acre; but were the country to be surveyed in blocks, it could not cost more than 3d., thus saving one half of the large sums paid for surveys, but with this difference, that at present the money come out of the poor man's pocket at once, and before he knows where his life is to run. Surely the province was not quite so poor as to be obliged to continue this from hand to mouth system longer.

Let them be at any rate on a footing with a respectable merchant, and keep at least a year's stock on hand, ready to be disposed of to the first good customer. With regard to another point advanced by his hon. friend on his left, (Mr. Fisher) that the Government should take the initiative in the manner of surveys, he could inform him that in his opinion that would never be done. If there are to be improvements at all, they must emanate in that House. He would not read for the information of his hon. friend and that of the house, a memorial which he had the honor to address to Sir John Harvey in 1838, at the time he administered the Government of this Province, on that very subject. [Here the hon. member read a long extract from the memorial, urging the Government to adopt a better system of surveys, which we shall publish in our Saturday's edition.] This would show the House that the Government had already been tried and that they refused to interfere, and he had little doubt would again refuse to interfere, in his matter without the sanction of the House. The plan which he should like to see adopted, would be to survey the Country in blocks—subdivided into lots, with a moderate frontage, but not running back so far as would make it a matter of much moment whether settlers occupied the

first or second tier. He now left the resolution, satisfied that by bringing it forward he had only done his duty.

TAHITI.

St. John New-Brunswick, February 9.

From the Sandwich Islands.—Papers to the 15th of August have been received at New York from the Sandwich Islands. The Collingwood, British ship of the line, Sir George Seymour, commander, arrived at Honolulu on the 6th Aug. from Matanzas, and the frigate Grampus on the 14th.

The French were still carrying on the war against the Tahitians, but with little success.—On the 19th of May, two French parties attacked the Tahitians posted in advance of their encampment at Papeenu. The French on this occasion had an officer killed, a Lieut. of the navy, and 20 men wounded. On the 11th, the French carried the 1st and 2d line of breast works, with loss of several killed and upwards of 20 wounded. They were then able to advance to the entrance of the valley of Papeenu, destroyed all the bread-fruit trees that came in their way. The Tahitians, not at all disheartened, retreated up the valley to their principal breast works, which the French reconnoitred, without venturing to attack in earnest. 23rd, the French retired from Papeenu to Pt. Venus, and thence to Papeite. 27th, the French troops and seamen, numbering upwards of 1000 men under the Command of Governor Bruat, marched for Batavia. The Phaeton, proceeding thence with several boats, (inside of the reef) loaded with armed natives, paid by the French. Two days more spent in a fruitless attempt at negotiations. On 30th May, Gov. Bruat made his attack, and carried the entrenchment without much difficulty; there was, however, a good deal of fighting on both sides. The French now advanced up the valley, but after proceeding two miles, their progress was impeded by some fortifications of the Tahitians. Here a desperate conflict ensued—an officer of the Uranie, and the Colonel commanding a regiment, were killed. M. Malmanche, chief of the staff, lost a leg, and a captain among the infantry was wounded. The French retreated to the sea shore, their loss in killed and wounded being very severe.—The native women are said to have hurled down stones upon the heads of the French soldiers making great havoc among them. Queen Pomare, it is said, is more than ever determined not to return to Tahiti, or acknowledge the Protectorate.

Colonial News

Canada.

From the Bathurst Courier. Fire—A whole family burnt to Death!—It becomes our painful duty to inform our readers of the most distressing calamity that has ever been our lot to record—namely that of the destruction of a whole family by fire. It appears that on the morning of Friday last about 9 o'clock the house of Patrick Conner, township of Lanark, was discovered to be on fire by some travellers who had put up at the house for the night, and were aroused by the screams of the family. They were obliged to make their escape by breaking the window and going through it. After having got out they thought of trying to save the family, but found it impossible to do so, without jeopardizing their own lives in the attempt; and Mr Conner, his wife, five children, and a girl, who had come to act as a servant all perished in the flames.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

For the RELIEF of the Starving Population in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, will be received by the following persons:—
Gatham, Mr. Macdougall, and Mr. Douglas, Gilmour Rankin & Co., Newcastle, A. A. Davidson, Esq.
And all Scotchmen are especially called upon, promptly to come forward, with their contributions in this emergency, in order that no time may be lost in transmitting to the scene of distress as much aid as possible.
Committee for transmission,
T. C. ALLAN, Esq., Equities,
R. HURCHISON, Esq.,
9th February, 1847.

John Johnston, Jun.,

ATTORNEY AT LAW, &c.
Office—second door above the Office of Wm. Carman, Jun., Esq.,
Chatham, 11th Feb., 1847.